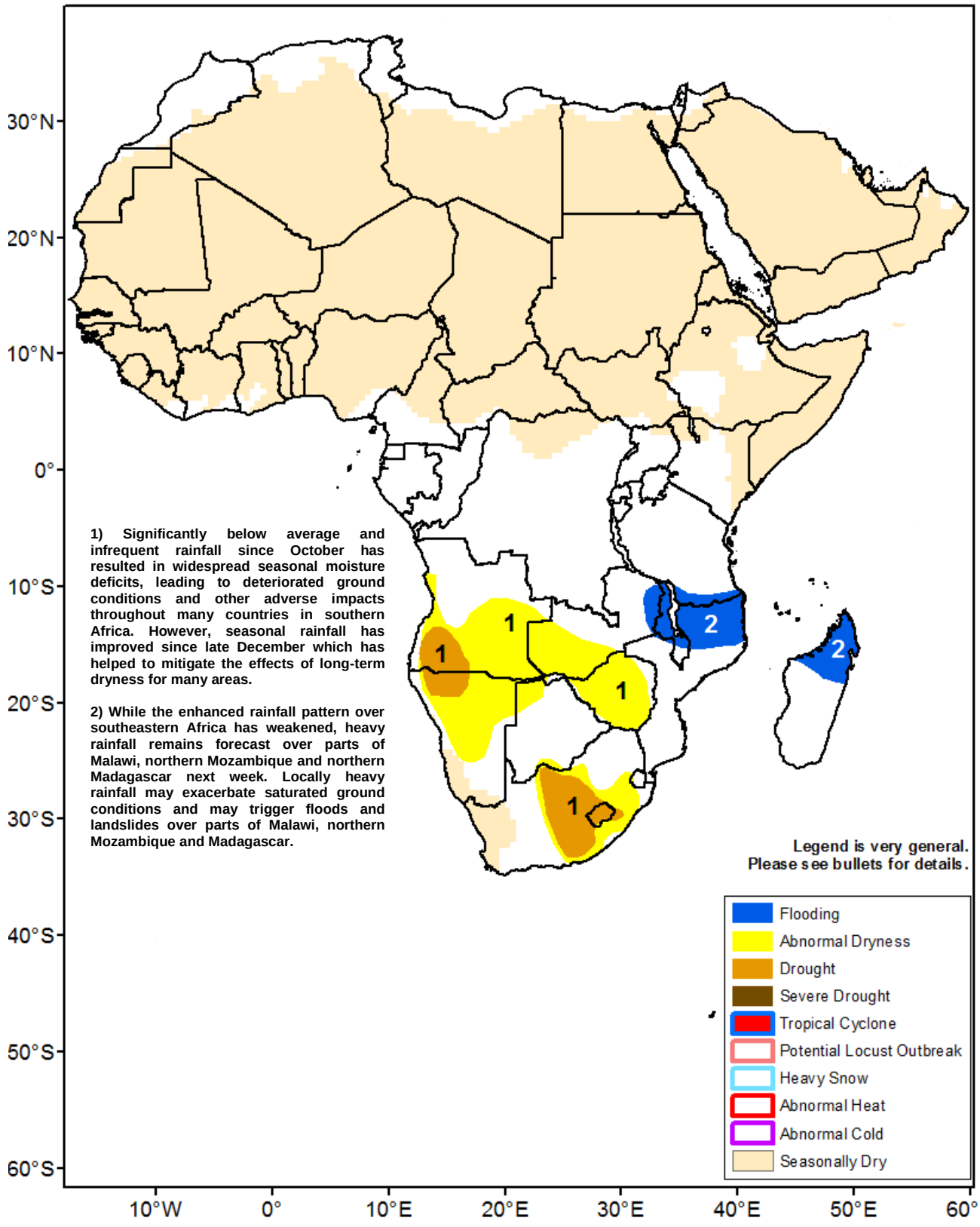
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
February 7 - 13, 2019

- **Enhanced rainfall continues over parts of Malawi, northern Mozambique and northern Madagascar.**
- **Abnormal dryness expands and strengthens over parts of Angola and Namibia.**



Heavy rains received over northern Mozambique, Madagascar.

Several regions in Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar received heavy rainfall accumulations for another week. According to satellite rainfall estimates, weekly accumulations in excess of 100mm were registered over northern Madagascar, western Zambia, southern Tanzania, and northern Mozambique, with increased amounts (>50mm) also received over northern Zambia, Angola, and South Africa (**Figure 1**). Meanwhile, lesser and suppressed accumulations were observed over many parts of Angola, Namibia, southern Zambia, eastern Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Madagascar. Many areas of Mozambique and Zimbabwe received no rainfall at all.

Throughout January, the spatial extent of the enhanced precipitation pattern varied. Some areas have benefited from improved mid-season rainfall that had previously been absent, delayed or insufficient since last October. Other areas, however, have experienced too much rainfall, which has already resulted in flooding, damages to infrastructure, landslides and fatalities within the last month. Specifically, portions of central and southern Mozambique and northern Madagascar experienced one of the wettest January's on record. The wet pattern appears to be persisting into February for these areas.

With the large increase in seasonal rains over the past 30 days, near-normal precipitation conditions can be seen throughout parts of Zambia, portions of Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Malawi. Favorably above-average moisture conditions remain in northern South Africa, western Tanzania, southern and northern Madagascar, along with southern Mozambique (**Figure 2**). Latest remotely sensed vegetation health indices also reflect moisture recovery with much needed positive changes over these regions.

However, much of southwestern Africa has not experienced any favorable increase in moisture, which has resulted in poor percent of normal values over Angola, Namibia, western South Africa, and Lesotho. Many of these areas experiencing dryness over the past 30 days are also registering below-average precipitation amounts since early November. Namely, many parts of southern Angola, northern Namibia, western Zambia, western and central South Africa, and southern Zimbabwe have received near record lows in precipitation quantities for the last 90 days. Here, season to date rainfall also remains less than a quarter of normal. With little increase in moisture during January and early February, drought conditions have and are likely to strengthen for many of these regions. This is reflected by poor vegetation health indices.

For the second week of February, models suggest a continuing area of monsoon convergence extending from central Angola eastward to northern Madagascar. Many areas in Zambia, southern DRC, Malawi, southern Tanzania, northern Mozambique, and northern Madagascar are forecast to receive weekly amounts in excess of 50mm, with heavier totals (>100mm) likely over already saturated areas of Malawi, northern Mozambique, and northern Madagascar which may trigger flooding next week. Most of South Africa and Lesotho are expected to receive near-normal rainfall next week. A broad area of suppressed rainfall is forecast to persist, with limited precipitation amounts (<25mm) expected for southern Angola, northern Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, northern South Africa, and southern Mozambique. The decreased rainfall over southwestern Africa will likely strengthen drought conditions into February.

7-Day Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Total (mm)
Valid: January 30 – February 5, 2019

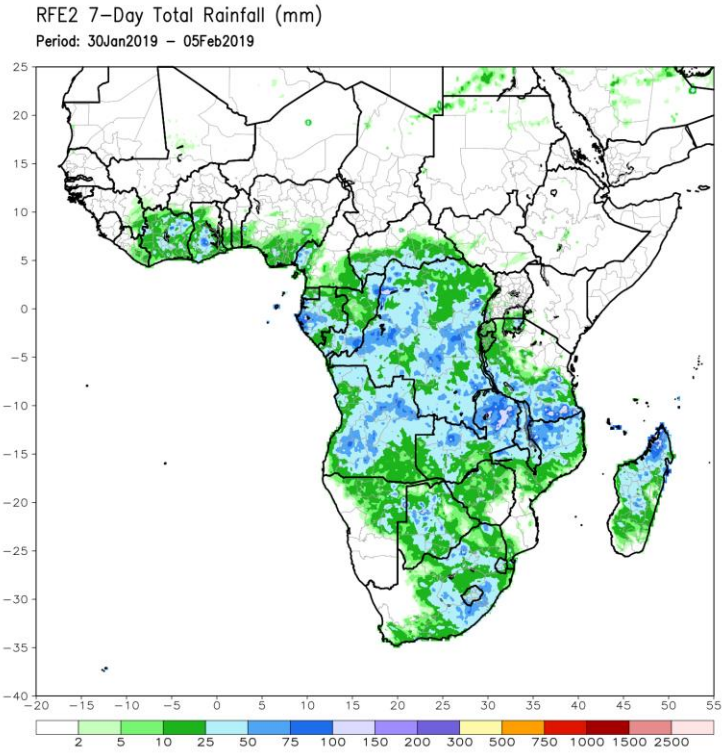


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

30-Day Satellite-Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: January 7, 2018 – February 5, 2019

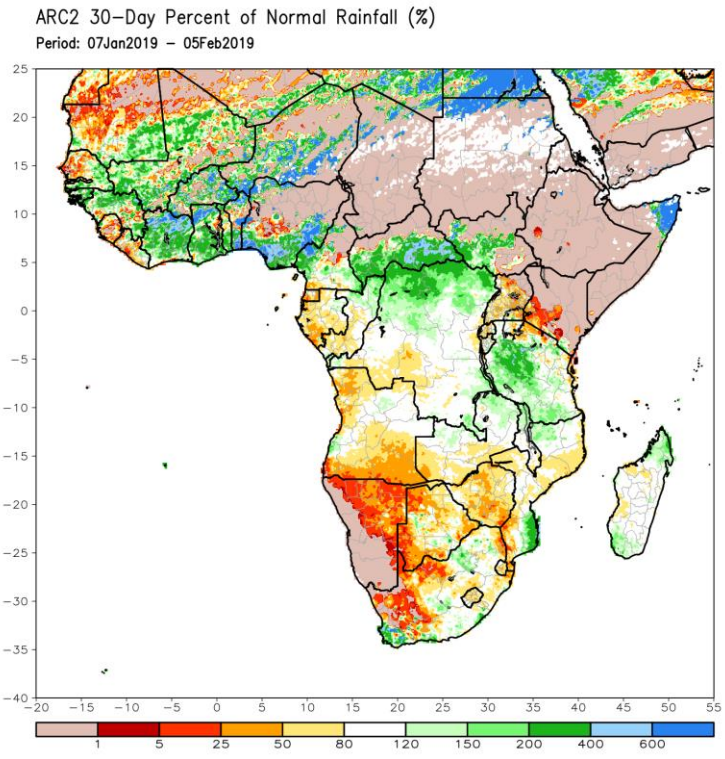


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.